

Hawaii MARINE

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APRIL 8, 2005

3/3 stays on the offensive

‘America’s Battalion’ finds success in Operation Mavericks

Cpl. Rich Mattingly
Combined Joint Task Force 76

LAGHMAN PROVINCE, Afghanistan — Third Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, “America’s Battalion,” completed Operation Mavericks this week, successfully rounding up suspected terrorists and confiscating several weapons and explosives caches in the still snow-covered mountains of eastern Afghanistan.

Kilo and Lima Companies combined their efforts during the battalion operation, simultaneously pursuing several targets they believed were hiding in the Alishang District of Laghman Province. Kilo also worked with Navy Special Operations Forces who shared a third of their objective among the hilltop villages.

Both the Navy SEALs and Marines said pooling their resources was mutually beneficial during Mavericks.

“Working with NAVSOF was great,” said 2nd Lt. Michael Poliquin, Kilo Company platoon commander, adding, “We do business in a very similar manner. We’re both very methodical and detail-oriented with mission-accomplishment being the top priority.”

Many of the SEALs and Marines, having had experience working with the other service as part of a Marine Expeditionary Unit, were able to speak the same operational language, which the Marines said kept the mission focused.

See **MAVERICKS**, A-8



Cpl. James Yarbboro

Cpls. Thomas Stickles and John Pollander, both rifleman assigned to Kilo Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, provide security on a rooftop while other Marines conduct searches through buildings during Operation Mavericks, an operation that Marines conducted to capture suspected Anti-Coalition Forces in the vicinity of Methar Lam, Afghanistan, March 19. Third Battalion, 3rd Marines is conducting security and stabilization operations in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Infantrymen learn how to call in and direct close-air support in Afghanistan

Cpl. Rich Mattingly
Combined Joint Task Force 76

FORWARD OPERATING BASE SALERNO, Afghanistan — Marine small-unit leaders with “America’s Battalion,” 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment recently polished their skills in effectively employing and controlling rotary-wing aircraft during joint, close-air support drills.

As the Marines continue to hunt down

insurgents and maintain security for Afghans in the rugged mountains along the Pakistan border, enemy contact is often made at the small-unit level. Closing with and battling insurgents who habitually retreat as quickly as they attack is greatly enhanced by calling for fixed- or rotary-wing air support.

“This is probably some of the best training they’re going to receive outside of basic infantry skills,” said Air Force Master Sgt. John Knipe, a joint terminal air controller who has

been training 3/3 Marines and accompanying them on operations throughout Afghanistan.

“In an infantry squad, you don’t have many ‘big guns’ available to you,” he continued. “If Marines need to pursue or break contact with an enemy, they may not always have the organic fire power to do that. Being able to call for and effectively employ fixed- and rotary-wing aircraft with the weapons systems they have can save that squad or platoon.”

With two AH-1 Cobra helicopters from

Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 773, “Red Dog,” screaming overhead, Marines from Headquarters and Service and Weapons Companies, 3/3 — both of which are largely organized as provisional rifle companies operating in Khowst — made radio contact with the pilots and then directed them to strike enemy targets.

“We’re having the Marines mark the targets,

See **SUPPORT**, A-7

Over the river



Cpl. James Yarbboro

A U.S. Marine guides the driver of a High-Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle through a river as they negotiate through the rugged terrain of Khowst Province, Afghanistan, March 28. The Marines of Kilo Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, are conducting security and stabilization operations in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Marines assist Air Force with SERE

Cpl. Megan L. Stiner
Press Chief

Recently, members of the Air Force Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape, or SERE team, traveled to Oahu from Fairchild AFB, Wash., to participate in the final exercise of a 25-day training event that took them from Fairchild AFB to Davis AFB, Tuscon, Ariz., and here to Schofield Barracks as well as Marine Corps Training Area Bellows.

Throughout the final phase of their exercise, the SERE team members needed helicopter air support in order to perform parachute operations. Because the Air Force does not

have helicopters equipped with platforms, the SERE team looked to the Marines of K-Bay for aid.

“We enjoy working with the Marines because they never say ‘no’,” said Tech Sgt. Christopher S. Hubbard, SERE specialist, Survival School Institute of Training, Fairchild AFB. “They are always willing to lend a hand when it comes to joint-training exercises, which not only helps us out, but also gives them more experience in the air.”

He said that the reason the Air Force travels here to perform this training is to take advantage of the jungle-like terrain, which gives the training a more realistic atmosphere.

While on island, the SERE members performed a four-day joint search-and-rescue exercise, which taught the team members how to coordinate emergency search-and-rescue procedures. They also performed parachute operations as well as tactical recovery of aircraft and personnel missions at night with aid from Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 463.

“The Marines served as our air support during both daytime and night missions,” said Hubbard. “They provide the most accurate, squared away and professional military support we could ask for. It is always a pleasure to work with them.”

Local students support Marines “Hawaiian style”

Cpl. Michelle M. Dickson
Combat Correspondent

“Just seeing the kids was the best medicine for me,” admitted Sgt. Catcher Cuts The Rope, a squad leader from 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, who returned to MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, as a result of injuries sustained in the war in Iraq. “It helps me readjust to the world again.”

Elementary students from Mokapu, Lanikai, Kainalu, and Kailua schools, took the time and effort to make leis for the 1/3 Marines who will be returning from their tour in Iraq. There were more than 1,400 leis in the final count — an overwhelming number compared to what was expected, said Sheryl Lee, dependant.

“At Christmas time I wrote a letter to the local schools, asking if

they could do something for the Marines that would be coming home,” said Lee. “The response was unbelievable. We have so many leis that the remainders will be passed on to spouses of 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment for when they return home from Afghanistan.”

It took approximately six weeks for the leis to be completed by the students. Mokapu Elementary created red, white, and blue star leis with painted rigatoni, while the other schools made traditional cut-out flower leis.

Along with the lei creations, some other volunteers decided that the Marines deserved a little more.

“Volunteers wanted to create goodie bags with cookies and have it on each Marine’s rack for after they return,” said Lee. “In just two

See **LEIS**, A-5



Cpl. Michelle M. Dickson

Staff Sgt. John Edwards (left), platoon sergeant, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, along with Sgt. Catcher Cuts The Rope, thanks Mokapu Elementary students and staff for making leis and other items for returning Marines.

NEWS BRIEFS

Pride Day set for April 22

On April 22, Marines and Sailors will once again gather for “Pride Day” and take part in a base-wide clean up.

Last year hundreds of volunteers joined the effort from Headquarters Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, Combat Service Support Group 3, 3rd Radio Battalion, Marine Aircraft Group 24, Marine Corps Air Facility, Patrol Reconnaissance Wing Two, and many more.

This year Marines, Sailors and civilian Marines are encouraged to show their pride by helping to clean up both the inhabited and training areas of the base, including Pyramid Rock Beach, North Beach, Marine Corps Air Facility, Mokapu Road, Nuupia Ponds and all the surrounding areas.

Base to Honor Volunteers

MCB Hawaii will honor its volunteers with an annual volunteer recognition ceremony on April 28 from 3:45 to 5 p.m. at the Base Theater, Building 219.

Lane Closure at Mokapu and Lawrence Roads

There will be a lane closure at the intersection of Mokapu Road and Lawrence Road until April 29, from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., in order to complete a trenching project. Lane closure will affect only one lane in either or both directions. Cones will be set up to mark the lane being closed, with flag-men positioned at each end to direct traffic.

Construction on Mokapu Road

KD Construction, Inc. will be performing waterline installation on Mokapu Road until April 29 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. This work will be in addition to the utilities installation on Mokapu Road; however, utilities installation and waterline installation will not be performed concurrently. Traffic will be directed around the work area.

49th Annual Excellence in Federal Government Awards Luncheon

Marines and civilian employees from MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, will be recognized at the 2005 Excellence in Federal Government Awards Luncheon, June 8 at 10:45 a.m. in the Hawaii Ballroom of the Sheraton Waikiki Hotel.

To attend the event, pick up tickets through May 11 in Building 216, Room 6. The ticket price of \$26 includes tax and gratuity. Validated parking will be available at the Sheraton Waikiki Hotel.

For more information, contact Charles McTee at 257-8807.

EOD Looks to fill School Seats

Explosive Ordnance Disposal is an MOS that is normally only available to sergeants and re-enlisting corporals. However, HQMC has recently authorized lance corporals and corporals to join the ranks — but only until Sept. 30, and only if the following criteria are met: GT score of 110 or higher; minimum of 21 years of age; normal color vision; no claustrophobia; minimum two years in service; First class PFT; eligible for secret security clearance based on Single Scope Background Investigation; and are eligible for Personnel Reliability Program. Remember, this is only until Sept. 30. After that, the offer is only available to sergeants and above.

For additional information, call 257-7112 and ask to speak with any EOD Tech that is available.

Important Phone Numbers

On-Base Emergencies	257-9111
Military Police	257-7114
Child Protective Service	832-5300
Fraud, Waste, Abuse and EEO	257-8852
Business Management Hotline	257-3188
Pothole and Streetlight Repair	257-2380

Correction

In the “Salutes” section on page A-6 of the April 1 edition of the *Hawaii Marine*, Staff Sgt. George A. Revenaugh’s hometown was incorrectly stated as Missoula, Mont. His correct hometown is Saint Clair, Mich.

Marines should beware of rising identity theft

Base Legal Center Staff
MCB Hawaii

What is identity theft?

In its simplest form, identity theft is the crime that occurs when a thief obtains some piece of your sensitive personal information and uses it without your knowledge to commit fraud or theft. The types of information that the identity thieves use to commit these illegal acts come from the bits of personal information that you reveal about yourself during your everyday transactions, i.e. your name, address, phone numbers, Social Security Number, savings and checking account numbers, income, etc.

What is the impact of identity theft on the victim?

The repercussions of being a victim of identity theft are truly devastating. It can take victims of identity theft literally months, or in some cases years, in order to effectively repair the damage done by the thieves to both their credit reports and personal/professional reputations. In addition to time, victims of identity theft often have to spend thousands of dollars in order to correct the mess made by the thieves. During his recent visit to MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, the Commandant of the Marine Corps, General Michael Hagee, USMC revealed that he himself has been of victim of identity theft and that it took him more than four years to resolve all of the outstanding issues created by the thief.

Current national and state identity theft crime statistics

The crime of identity theft was spawned in the 1990s and continues to grow at an alarming rate. For the calendar year 2004, the Federal Trade Commission received 246,570 complaints of identity theft nationwide. That figure marks a nationwide increase of more than 31,000 from the number of complaints received in calendar year 2003 and an increase of more than 84,000 from calendar year 2002. The age bracket affected most significantly by identity theft crimes nationwide in 2004 was between 18 and 29, with 29 percent of the victims falling in that designated bracket. However, the age bracket of 30 to 39 was a close second with 25 percent of the nationwide vic-

Credit Reporting Agencies

Equifax, (800) 525-6285,
www.equifax.com, P.O. Box 740241,
Atlanta, GA 30374-0241

Experian, (888) 397-3742,
www.experian.com, P.O. Box 9532,
Allen, TX 75013

TransUnion, (800) 680-7289,
www.transunion.com, Fraud Victim
Assistance Division, P.O. Box 6790,
Fullerton, CA 92834-6790

Marine Forces Pacific Band Schedule

Friday, 10 a.m.
3rd Marines Retirement Ceremony
Ceremonial Band, Pacific War Memorial

April 16, 9:30 a.m.
Art in the Park
Dixie Band, Child Development Center

April 19, 4 p.m.
Volunteer Recognition Ceremony
Ceremonial Band, Base Theatre

April 25, 11 a.m.
ANZAC Day Memorial
Ceremonial Band, National Memorial of the Pacific

April 25, 5:30 p.m.
Art in the Park
Dixie Band, Child Development Center

The Marine Forces Pacific Band schedule of performances can be found on the Web at www.mfp.usmc.mil/mfpband/main.html.

times in 2004 hailing from that category.

In Hawaii for the calendar year 2004 there were 640 complaints of identity theft, with the majority of those incidents occurring in Honolulu (220). Other popular local identity theft victim locations were Kailua (44), Waipahu (33), Mililani (31) and Ewa Beach (29).

It is also important to note that these figures only represent the number of identity theft crimes reported, not the number of identity theft crimes committed. Unfortunately, many identity theft crimes go unreported and consequently, the figures cataloging these incidents are under inflated.

How does identity theft happen?

Identity thieves are extraordinarily skilled scavengers and can obtain your personal information in a variety of ways.

- They may steal your mail, including bank and credit card statements, credit card offers, new checks and tax information.
- They may submit a change of address form and divert your mail to an alternate location.
- They may rummage through your trash, or the trash dumpsters of local businesses, in order to retrieve this sensitive information.
- They may steal your wallet or purse.
- They may break into your home or vehicle.
- They may capture the information from your debit or credit card in a data storage device, which is known as “skimming.”
- They may steal your personal information by posing as legitimate companies. This practice is known as “phishing,” or pre-texting by phone.
- They may obtain your personal information by posing as an individual who has a legal entitlement to that information; i.e., your employer, landlord, attorney, etc.
- They may obtain the personal information you store and/or communicate via your personal or work computer by either hacking into those systems, or accessing them physically.

Once the identity thieves are in possession of your personal information they engage in various illegalities — all of which detrimentally affect either your finances, or your liberty.

- They make large purchases on your credit, or debit cards. Note typically the identity thief would have taken the precaution of diverting your mail so it takes some time before you recognize the illegal charges.
- They open a credit card in your name and make a series of large purchases. When the bills are delinquent and are referred to a collection agency for processing, it is the victim’s credit report on which those entries of delinquency are made.
- They establish phone service in your

name.

- They open a bank account in your name and write fraudulent checks on that account.
- They file bankruptcy in your name in order to avoid paying debts or eviction.
- They buy a car with an automotive loan under your name.
- They obtain a driver’s license with your name on it.
- They obtain employment using your SSN and you are credited with their income for tax purposes.
- They give your name as their own for a police report and when you do not show up for the designated court date, a bench warrant is sworn out for your arrest.

What to do if you are a victim of identity theft

If you do become a victim of identity theft, there are four steps that must be taken immediately in order to minimize the damage done by the thieves. It is also critical that you keep a record with the details of your conversations and copies of all correspondence.

1. Place a fraud alert on your credit reports and review your credit reports.

Fraud alerts act to prevent identity thieves from opening new accounts in your name. To place such an alert on your credit report you need to contact one of the three consumer reporting agencies listed below. Whichever consumer-reporting agency you contact will notify the other two accordingly. Once you have placed the fraud alert on your account you are entitled to a free credit report. Scrutinize this document carefully, note any inaccurate information, contact the issuing consumer-reporting agency and have it removed immediately.

2. Close accounts that you know, or believe, have been tampered with or opened fraudulently.

It is imperative that you contact each company directly and notify them in writing that you believe your account has either been accessed, or opened illegally. Ask each company specifically what their governing identify theft reporting procedures are so that you can properly dispute the charges. Also, be sure to provide copies of supporting documents to these companies; i.e., police reports, bank statements, etc, but retain the originals for your own records. In addition, send all correspondence via certified mail with a return receipt requested, in order to

See *IDENTITY*, A-8

A fond farewell



Gunnery Sgt. Claudia LaMantia
Lt. Col. James S. Connelly (left), commanding officer of Headquarters Battalion, relieves Sgt. Major William T. Wilson Jr. of his post as battalion sergeant major, sending him onward to his next duty assignment as post sergeant major, Camp Fuji, Japan.

Hawaii MARINE

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Base Sergeant Major	Sgt. Maj. Anthony E. Franks
Public Affairs Officer	Maj. Patricia Johnson
Public Affairs Chief	Gunnery Sgt. Claudia LaMantia
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Staff Writer	Cpl. Michelle M. Dickson
Staff Writer	Cpl. Rich Mattingly
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MCB HAWAII, KANEOHE BAY, HAWAII 96863
E-MAIL: EDITOR@HAWAIIIMARINE.COM
FAX: 257-1289, PHONE: 257-8836

Weekend weather outlook

Today



Day — Mostly cloudy with scattered showers, northeasterly winds, 12-25 mph
Night — Mostly cloudy isolated thunderstorms and scattered showers, easterly winds, 15-25 mph

High — 78
Low — 72

Saturday



Day — Mostly cloudy with scattered showers, northeasterly winds, 12-25 mph
Night — Mostly cloudy with isolated showers, northerly winds, 15-25 mph

High — 76
Low — 72

Sunday



Day — Partly to mostly cloudy with isolated showers, northerly winds, 12-20 mph
Night — Mostly cloudy, light northeasterly winds, 12-20 mph

High — 77
Low — 71

Urban warfare 101

Combat Assault Company completes MOUT training

Story and Photos By
Pfc. Roger L. Nelson

Combat Correspondent

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS, Hawaii — Marines are considered the number one fighting force in the United States because of their elite and strenuous training exercises.

Marines assigned to Combat Assault Company, 3rd Marine Regiment continue to uphold this elite reputation by reinforcing their training, expanding rifleman skills and increasing combat knowledge while taking a rigorous Support and Stability Operations course.

SASO, a two-week course, incorporates the lessons learned by Marines previously deployed in combat zones, providing more realistic training scenarios for those who may be faced with similar situations when they deploy.

"This training actually just started in Regimental Schools," said Sgt. Juan R. Martinez, SASO instructor, Regimental Schools. "For this course, the first week is all classrooms the whole time, and the next week we are in the field doing training exercises."

According to Martinez, instructors receive information from Marines who have already been to combat zones, such as Iraq and Afghanistan. This information is compiled and put into a useful scenario that teaches Marines how to survive in similar situations.

"The most helpful parts of this information are then taken and implemented into the SASO course," he said.

"We have six instructors in the course who help Marines learn different field training exercises they could see in the real combat zones," said Martinez, a



Cpl. Terrance Gibson, Cpl. Brian A. Hendricks and Cpl. Arich W. Uldrich, of Combat Assault Company, 3rd Marine Regiment, check SASO instructor Sgt. Benjamin D. Tourtelot for hidden weapons during an exercise for a Schofield Barracks SASO course.

Hartford, Conn. native.

To make the training even more realistic, the Marines run 24-hour operations so they also endure sleep deprivation."

After the Marines finish the first week of classroom exercises, they then go on to do a wide variety of different field exercises. The training the Marines undergo includes Military Operations in Urban Terrain, prisoner of war detainment and vehicle control points.

In the MOUT training, the Marines are expected to clear rooms as instructors fire back at them with M16-A2 service rifles with simulated rounds.

"The reason we shoot at them with the paint rounds is so we will be able to tell if the Marine was hit while clearing the room or not," explained Martinez. "If a Marine is hit he will know what he did wrong and will, hopefully, correct it so it doesn't happen again."

This was the first MOUT course at Regimental Schools that included SASO training. They are expected to start giving this training up to five times a year.

"We actually never get to do this kind of training," said Capt. Robert A. Kleinpaste, commanding officer of CAC, 3rd Marine Regiment.

"This is the first time Regimental

Schools has done this. We usually just get to work with vehicles."

According to Kleinpaste, a Spokane, Wash. native, the combat training should be balanced because it is important that Marines get this training while maintaining their primary jobs.

"For this being the first time we've done this training, it seems to be working out pretty well," said Kleinpaste. "It's really good training for squad- and platoon-size units. It's really been more close-quarters combat training."

Kleinpaste explained that there is more than a 90 percent chance he and some of his Marines will be deployed in the upcoming months, so the training is essential for these Marines.

"Next month we will be training Marines at [Marine Corps Training Area] Bellows," explained Martinez, "but we will be doing different training exercises than what we're teaching here and changing some things around."

Cpl. Jake D. Hinderliter, amphibious assault vehicle chief, CAC, 3rd Regiment, said the only thing he would change about the training is instead of having two weeks of training, he would combine the training into classroom sessions in the morning and field training in the afternoon.

Students from CAC currently enrolled in a SASO course are not only expanding their knowledge of combat situations, but also helping to ensure the Marine Corps remains America's number one fighting force.

A Marine from Combat Assault Company, 3rd Marine Regiment, watches from the top of a building with his rifle to ensure the safety of other Marines during vehicle checkpoint exercises for a SASO course at Schofield Barracks.



A Marine from Combat Assault Company, 3rd Marine Regiment, checks under an insurgent's vehicle with a mirror to ensure there are no weapons or other harmful objects under it during a practice vehicle checkpoint for a SASO course at Schofield Barracks.



Marines from Combat Assault Company, 3rd Marine Regiment, check a passenger for weapons and any other harmful items during a practice vehicle checkpoint for a SASO course at Schofield Barracks.

Salutes

Returned from deployment

Capt. Rodrigo Cantu, 31
Military Police
Headquarters & Service Company, Headquarters Battalion
Hometown: Hale, Texas
Deployment location/dates: Iraq/ May 23, 2004 to March 15
Awards: Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal (3), GWOTEM, Sea Service Deployment Ribbon (2), GWOTSM (2), National Defense Service Medal, Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation, Certificate of Commendation (Individual Award) (3), Letter of Appreciation (7)

Gunnery Sgt. (Master Sgt. Select) Kevin L. Zuroski
Administration Chief
Marine Aircraft Group Headquarters
Deployment location/date returned: Iraq/March 30
Note: Gunnery Sgt. Zuroski was frocked to Master Sergeant on Feb. 6, and is being reassigned to CSSG-3.

April 1 Promotions

1st Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment
An H. Tran to Lance Corporal — Hq. Battery
Hector L. Velez to Corporal — Hq. Battery
Jessie Coffman to Lance Corporal — C Battery
Lincoln M. Duclos to Lance Corporal — A Battery
Keith E. Eckert II to Lance Corporal — Hq. Battery
Arthur L. Green Jr. to Lance Corporal — B Battery
Michael E. Lahr Jr. to Lance Corporal — A Battery
James J. Mccarthy to Lance Corporal — A Battery
Omar L. Davila to Private First Class — A Battery
Samuel D. Petersen to Private First Class — B Battery

Staff Sgt. Erick D. Gamble, 28
Travel NCO
Headquarters & Service Company, Headquarters Battalion
Hometown: Edgewater, Md.
Awards: Navy And Marine Corps Achievement Medal (4), Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal (2). GWOTSM, GWOTEM, Korean Defense Service Medal, Sea Service Deployment Ribbon (3), National Defense Service Medal, Presidential Unit Citation Navy, Certificate of Commendation (Individual Award) (4), Certificate of Commendation (Unit Award), Letter of Appreciation (3)

Staff Sgt. Shelon D. Hutchinson, 25
Airframe Mechanic, HMH-362
Hometown: Newburgh, N.Y./ Kingston, Jamaica
Awards: GWOTSM, National Defense Service Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal, Sea Service Deployment Ribbon, Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation, Letter of Appreciation, Certificate of Commendation (Individual Award)

Staff Sgt. Michael G. Slepicka, 28
ATC Maintenance Communications Technician
Air Traffic Control Maintenance Branch, MCAF
Hometown: Lyons, Ill.

Sgt. Viola Y. Delgado, 24
Administration Clerk
Headquarters & Service Company, Headquarters Battalion
Hometown: Los Angeles, Calif.
Awards: Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal (2), GWOTSM, National Defense Service Medal, Letter of Appreciation (2), Certificate of Commendation (Individual Award)

Sgt. Christopher M. Salzman, 22
Airframe Mechanic, HMH-362
Hometown: Portland, Ore.
Awards: Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal, GWOTSM, Sea Service Deployment Ribbon, National Defense Service Medal, Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation, Navy Unit Commendation, Letter of Appreciation

Sgt. Allen L. Smith Jr., 23
Bulk Fuels
Headquarters & Service Company, Headquarters Battalion
Hometown: Palo Pinto, Texas
Awards: Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal, GWOTSM, National Defense Service Medal, Letter of Appreciation, Certificate of Commendation (Individual Award) (2)

Sgt. Victor D. Velez, 22
Administration Chief, HMH-362
Hometown: Hackensack, N.J.
Awards: Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal, GWOTSM, Marine Corps Good Conduct, National Defense Service Medal, Navy Unit Commendation, Letter of Appreciation, Certificate of Commendation (Individual Award), Certificate of Appreciation

Cpl. Michael J. Kelly, 22
MarForPac Band
Headquarters & Service Company, Headquarters Battalion
Hometown: Chautauqua, N.Y.
Awards: GWOTSM, National Defense Service Medal

Lance Cpl. Ramon Ariastamai, 25
Personnel Clerk
Headquarters & Service Company, Headquarters Battalion
Hometown: Imperial, Calif.
Awards: GWOTSM, National Defense Service Medal

Lance Cpl. Patrick L. Barton Jr., 20
Mant Admin Clerk, HMH-362
Hometown: Rochester, N.Y.
Awards: GWOTSM, National Defense Service Medal

Lance Cpl. Marc A. Oxley, 20
Airframe Mechanic, HMH-362
Hometown: Philadelphia, Pa.
Awards: GWOTSM, National Defense Service Medal

Pfc. Richard Jones
Crew Member
Air Rescue and Fire Fighting, MCAF
Hometown: Freemont, Calif.

Pfc. Zachary C. Ray, 20
Flight Line Mechanic, HMH-362
Hometown: Ulysses, Kan.
Awards: GWOTSM, National Defense Service Medal

Awards

1/12 Certificate Of Good Conduct Awards

1st Sgt. Michael J. Andrews — Hq. Battery
Staff Sgt. Enrique Lopez — Hq. Battery
Staff Sgt. Jerry E. Lopez — Hq. Battery
Sgt. Matthew A. Arzadon — Hq. Battery
Sgt Russ D. Johnson — Hq. Battery
Sgt Calvin Smith— B Battery
Cpl Myles K. Uamoo — Hq. Battery
Lance Cpl. Wendell R. Taylor — Hq. Battery
Award received: April 1

Master Sgt. Teresa A. Browndorf, 43
Reserve Liaison
Headquarters & Service Company, Headquarters Battalion
Hometown: Allegheny, Pa.
Award received/date: Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal/April 1

Staff Sgt. Timothy R. Duck, 37
Helo Airfram Mechanic
HMH-463
Home State: Indiana
Award received/date: Navy And Marine Corps Achievement Medal/March 30

CWO2 Richard T. Walker, 36
Director GPAC/Outbound Section IPAC
Marine Aircraft Group Headquarters
Home State: South Carolina
Award received/date: Navy And Marine Corps Achievement Medal (5)/March 30

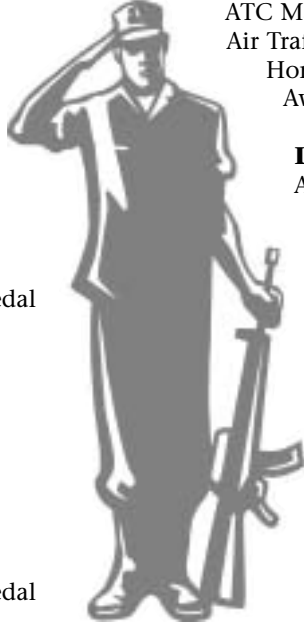
Cpl. Christopher L. Hauser, 20
ATC Maintenance Navaid's Tech
Air Traffic Control Maintenance Branch, MCAF
Hometown: Houma, La.
Award received: Certificate of Commendation

Cpl. Arthur K. Wood, 22
Apprentice Meteorology and Oceanography Analyst
Meteorology and Oceanography, MCAF
Hometown: Silver City, N.M.
Award received: Meritorious Mast

Lance Cpl. Kristopher C. Davis, 19
ATC Maintenance Communications Technician
Air Traffic Control Maintenance Branch, MCAF
Hometown: Kansas City, Kan.
Award received: Certificate of Commendation

Lance Cpl. Bradley A. Schnur, 20
ATC Maintenance Communications Technician
Air Traffic Control Maintenance Branch, MCAF
Hometown: Belleville, Ill.
Award received: Certificate of Commendation

Lance Cpl. Michael O. Sherbakov, 20
ATC Maintenance Communications Technician
Air Traffic Control Maintenance Branch, MCAF
Hometown: Mountain View, Calif.
Award received: Certificate of Commendation



Hawaii warrior, native gets in thick of battle in Fallujah, Iraq

Staff Sgt. Ronna M. Weyland
II MEF

CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq — As he sat under a palm tree as a cool breeze blew by, an island native, who has spent the last seven months in Iraq, was reminded of the trade winds on the beaches of Hawaii.

During his deployment, the 30-year-old found himself in the midst of “history in the making.”

Kailua-Kona, Hawaii native, Staff Sgt. Jason K. Teixeira, Combat Service Support Group 3, Maintenance Company, Motor Transport Maintenance Platoon, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, arrived in Iraq Sept. 17, 2004, as an individual augment and information operations chief.

“I filled this billet because I wanted to be a part [of Operation Iraqi Freedom], so I volunteered for this IA slot,” explained Teixeira. “However, I never thought I would be pushed down to the battalion level. I never thought I would be at the ‘tip of the spear.’”

After being assigned to 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Division, Camp Pendleton, Calif., the motor transport chief made the most out of his three-day crash course on information operations upon arriving in Iraq.

“We passed out a lot of flyers and hand bills telling people what was going to happen,” he recalled. “There were some schools set up in the refugee area, and I assisted with that as well.”

Within two months, Teixeira found himself crossing the “line of departure” heading to the city of Fallujah.

“It was kind of strange,” he said. “Everyone was kind of quiet, and there was a look of concern on all our faces, but everyone was very focused. Going through my mind was the thought I could be killed or someone around me could be killed.”

It wasn’t too long after entering the city before the 12-year veteran realized the battle for Fallujah was going to be serious.

“I remember hearing a crackling sound right near my head and parts of the building sprayed down on me,” recalled the 1992 Kona Waena High School graduate, as he laughed, slightly. “That was real. Myself and another staff sergeant just looked at each other and said ‘holy smokes, that was kind of close’.”

During the push to clear the city of insurgents, Teixeira spent time with each of the platoons within 3/1.

“I became close to a lot of those guys, and there are things I will never forget. We saw a lot of stuff out there,” he said. “The bravery of these guys was all around us.”

Prior to arriving in Hawaii, Teixeira was a recruiter at Recruiting Substation Littleton, Recruiting Station Denver, Colo.

“While I was on recruiting, I heard a lot of people say this new generation of Marine Corps isn’t as tough, and I

thought that sometimes, too,” he remembered. “But, I know my thoughts have changed after what I have seen. I have seen some amazing things from these infantry guys. The young Pac’s [privates first class] busting into houses and not even thinking twice. It was just amazing.

“All the Marines did what they had to do, and I don’t know if that comes from training or what, but it just happens ... Marines do what they have got to do.”

Teixeira said that the bonds that he formed and the memories he has made will never be forgotten.

Lance Cpl. James E. Swain, 20, Headquarters Battalion, 1st Marine Division, Camp Pendleton is one of the Marines he will never forget.



Photo Courtesy of Staff Sgt. Jason K. Teixeira

Staff Sgt. Jason K. Teixeira, a Hawaii-based Marine and Big Island native, finds himself in the midst of “history in the making” during the battle of Fallujah. Teixeira volunteered for an individual augment slot, but didn’t think he’d end up in the thick of battle during a seven-month deployment.

“I needed batteries one time, and Lance Cpl. Swain shared his with me,” Teixeira recalled.

Swain, a Kokomo, Ind. native, was later killed in action during the Nov. 15, 2004 battle.

“When someone got hurt or was killed, I would always think about the family,” said Teixeira, as tears filled his eyes.

“It made me think about my family and what it would be like for them if something happened to me,” he said. “I know it must be hard for the families.”

With the battle over, Teixeira is hopeful for a better future for Fallujah.

“We’ve done a lot of good things here after the push [battle] — with humanitarian assistance trying to help rebuild the city,” he said. “The first time I went back into the city was January 19, for the solatia payments. There was a total difference.

“The city went from being the most dangerous place to be, to what I believe is now the safest city in Iraq.”

Teixeira will be back at Camp Pendleton by the end of the month. He hopes to be back in Hawaii by April where he plans to spend some time with his family on the Big Island and return to surfing and going to the beach.

Teixeira admitted that he is also taking back a lot of experience and newfound knowledge back to his Marines.

“I am going to change the way we train ... show them how we operate here in a combat zone,” he said. “It is important to have the right mental state of mind.

“I feel we made a difference here, and I am really proud I was a part the history made here.”

LEIS, From A-1

weekends about eight volunteers donated their free time and baked about 400 cookies.”

Churches donated money along with 190 pounds of butter, 80 pounds of sugar and 80 pounds of flour to help the volunteers get the job done. The final products will be placed into bags of burgundy with gold labels.

On April 1, four Marines from 1/3 traveled to each of the participating elementary schools, to show their gratitude for what the children did for them.

“The children took so much time out for us,” said Staff Sgt. John Edwards, platoon sergeant, 1/3. “The least we could do was take the time out to thank them.”

The Marines answered questions that the children had, as a lot of their parents are currently deployed in either Iraq or Afghanistan.

“At first, some the questions about life and death seemed pretty tough to answer,” said Cuts The Rope. “But the kids are young and honest and are just curious. It’s a war, and they were asking fair questions.”

One of the most moving points during the trip to the schools occurred in Kailua, according to Cuts The Rope. The children sung a native Hawaiian song and hula danced for the Marines.

“I’m a Native American, so it’s a huge honor when people sing and perform to you in their native way,” said the Hays, Mont. native. “Coming from the children, and having thanked you as a warrior is a different feeling. It’s a good feeling for the heart.”


Lee said that all were moved by the performance, and that she is specifically thankful to the Marines because her husband is a chaplain and is currently deployed.

“I’m so appreciative to the Marines because they were out there every day protecting my husband,” said Lee. “There’s nothing I could be more thankful for.”

Cuts The Rope also said that after seeing the children, all the Marines who were with him were even happier to be home.

“Being young, the children may not see the dynamics of war and, God willing, they won’t have to,” said Cuts The Rope. “But they made everything that we may have seen and done out there a lot easier to deal with. And for that we are thankful.”

Speed Kills



Annually, about 32 percent of all motor vehicle traffic fatalities occur in crashes that are speeding-related, where at least one of the drivers involved exceeded the posted speed limit or was driving too fast for the prevailing conditions.

— National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Read the *Hawaii Marine* online at www.mcbh.usmc.mil



Cpl. Michelle M. Dickson

Lance Cpl. Tavonne Douglas (center), a 19-year-old food service specialist assigned to CSSG-3, and winner of the Chef of the Quarter Competition, stands with fellow cooks of the Anderson Hall Dining Facility.

Food Network fanatic wins chef of the quarter

Cpl. Michelle M. Dickson
Combat Correspondent

There are four competitors in a room. All from different walks of life, but all possessing the same passion; and that passion is cooking. In the end, there is one person who pulls ahead of the others to receive the title of Chef of the Quarter.

“This time around, the competition was extremely tough,” admitted Brig. Gen. George J. Trautman III, commanding general, MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, as he presented the winner, Lance Cpl. Tavonne Douglas, food service specialist, Combat Service Support Group 3, with the winning trophy.

Douglas, a Harlem, N.Y. native, said he has always had a passion for cooking.

“Actually, the first thing I wanted to do with my life was to be a scientist or a chemist,” said the 19-year-old, “but when I saw that cooking allowed me to cook things with measurements and mixtures, I gave it a try and loved it.”

Growing up, Douglas and his cousin would watch Food Network on television. The next day, they would try to re-create whatever meal they saw being prepared.

“He was my true inspiration growing up,”

said the Morrow High School graduate of his cousin. “The rest of my family would call me ‘Chef Boyardee,’ because I’d always cook for everyone — all the time.”

Upon graduating high school, Douglas knew his future goal was to open his own restaurant. For experience in the real world, he chose to be a food service specialist in the United States Marine Corps.

“I knew this was a really good choice for me because it would give me the experience and knowledge I would need to one day reach my goal,” said Douglas. “I’m used to cooking for huge groups of people now, and also gained a responsibility that I know will be beneficial.”

This is the first Chef of the Quarter competition that Douglas has had the opportunity to participate in. He said he wanted to make an impression. He did, obviously.

His winning plates were marcella, barbeque and teriyaki chicken, cornbread stuffing and for dessert — a pound cake dressed in raspberry sauce.

“I tried to spice things up a bit with how I presented the meals and how they were made,” said Douglas. “I used a soda marinade for the barbeque chicken and used chicken liver in the dirty rice. I also cut the pound cake into strips to look like French fries and

used raspberry sauce as their ‘ketchup’.”

It wasn’t all the food that helped Douglas take the win, as there are two other parts to the competition. All competitors must take a written test and go before a panel of judges before the final day.

“I think the board and test helped me a lot to be able to pull ahead in the competition,” said Douglas. “I’ve been on a lot of boards in the past and was really prepared. After that, I just had to let the food speak for itself.”

Douglas said there were four people who were instrumental in his capturing the title of Chef of the Quarter.

“My wife, Cpl. Washington, Gunny Sergeant White, and Lance Cpl. Conner were a really big part in this win for me,” admitted Douglas. “The competition was really tough and, honestly, I didn’t expect to win.”

Sgt. Danielle Jones, assistant chief cook, CSSG-3, works with Douglas and agreed that Douglas earned and deserved the win.

“I thought he was great going into the competition — just because he’s a great cook and a great Marine,”

said the Washington, D.C. native. “It was so close at the end I wasn’t sure who was going to win, but I know he deserved it. He’s a good, hard worker, and I’m proud of him.”

Although going in it without competing to win, Douglas said it feels great to get recognition and to show what he is capable of doing.

“It wasn’t simple, and I have great respect for all the competitors who were involved,” said Douglas. “This win is for all of the cooks who competed, I think we all deserved it.”



Cpl. Michelle M. Dickson

Sgt. Maj. William T. Wilson, sergeant major, Headquarters Battalion, samples food at the Chef of the Quarter competition, March 31, at the Anderson Hall Dining Facility.

CVICs Corps-wide change name to Combat Camera

Cpl. Michelle M. Dickson

Combat Correspondent

What was once known as the Combat Visual Information Center on MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, is now Combat Camera. The change was effective as of March 8. Not only is this a change here; it is a change for CVICs throughout the Marine Corps.

Combat Camera has gone through more than one name change, though, as it was originally the Training Audio Visual Support Center, and then CVIC, according to

Sgt. Jeffery Kaus, combat illustrator,
Headquarters Battalion.

There are different reasons for the name change, but it is mainly because the name CVIC wasn't clearly defined.

According to Kaus there are “two sides of the house” when it comes to the Combat Camera.” There were the larger non-deployable units, the CVICs, and there were the smaller deployable units, the Combat Camera units

"That's why it wasn't really clear on whether or not base CVIC was even deployable," he said.

The basic reason for the name change was the fact that CVIC's mission was misunderstood by commands, said Gunnery Sgt. Eduardo Riosmata, Combat Camera chief, Headquarters Battalion.

"A lot of customers would confuse us with the Public Affairs Office or think that we just took photos in garrison," said the Los Angeles, Calif. native. "Combat Camera relates more to the war fighter, and that is our true mission."

The name "Combat Camera" paints a different picture of what the unit's mission really is, said Riosmata. The Marines of Combat Camera are not only photographers; they are also videographers, and graphic and reproduction artists. All are capable of providing a great service to the war fighter.

"I think this change will allow commanders

to look at us as an asset to their units and not as a hindrance," said Riosmata. "As infantry units go through their training work-ups and deployments, they'll see us there doing the same things they are doing. Everyone becomes the unit; carrying their own packs; pulling their own weight."

Chief Warrant Officer William D. Crow, officer-in-charge, Combat Camera, HQBN, said he also believes the name change from CVIC to Combat Camera is a very positive thing.

"This change has been about 17 years in the works, and it's about time that it finally has taken place," said Crow. "I think since nine-eleven, and the fact that so many units are over in Iraq right now, commanders are really getting to know what Combat Camera can bring to the table."

SUPPORT, From A-1

which the Cobras subsequently engage. We wanted to make this training as realistic for them as possible," said Maj. Gerald Graham, America's Battalion's air officer.

The Marines fired 40 mm smoke grenades and M240G and M2 0.50 caliber machine guns while the Cobras engaged and adjusted their fire as directed by the Marines acting as observers. Firing their 20 mm cannons and 2.75-inch rockets, the Cobras made the range look like a very real battle space after just a few passes.

Each of the Marines received 10 to 20 minutes of “station” time with the pilots, during which they were coached by Knipe and Graham on everything from radio etiquette to how to adjust fire when multiple aircraft were available to engage a target.

"It's important that they gain the confidence to talk to the aircraft," said Graham. "Now that they see the firepower a section of Cobras can bring to the fight, I think they'll be more willing to take control of a real-world situation where they might need that support."

"It was motivating," said Sgt. Orlando Arocho, Weapons Company squad leader, after directing an air strike. "Our enemies know the area better than we do and can sometimes move a little faster, but they can't run from a pair of Cobras."

The pilots, stopping over at the range afterward to discuss the training with the Marines, spoke positively about the battalion's performance.

"They did well," said Maj. Dave Deep, Cobra pilot with Red Dog. "Even the ones who were nervous still called us in quickly and professionally. This will help us immensely in the field," he continued. "Having guys in a squad who won't always have a forward air controller with them will help us all increase our effectiveness."

Deep said that this valuable training should increase synergy between the air and ground units who operate together in America's Battalion's area of operations.



Cpl. Rich Mattingly

Two AH-1 Cobra attack helicopters from Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 773 fly near Forward Operating Base Salerno to provide Marines the opportunity to practice joint close-air support.



Cpl. Rich Mattingly

1st Lt. Whitney Foley, H&S Company executive officer, calls for an air strike while Air Force Master Sgt. John Knipe, terminal air controller, looks on during recent close-air support training at Forward Operating Base Salerno.



Of the 2,253 pedestrian fatalities in alcohol-related crashes in 2003, 79 percent involved pedestrians who had consumed alcohol.

— National Highway Traffic
Safety Administration

MAVERICKS, From A-1

“I’ve never seen something go as ‘according-to-plan’ as this did with as many variables as we had,” said Capt. Skyler Mallicoat, Kilo Company commander.

The Marines were the first coalition forces many of the villagers had ever encountered. Dealing with the culture shock and keeping everyone calm was essential to the success of the mission.

“There are some uncertainties on both sides, among the young Marines who have never experienced this culture before and from the Afghans who see us swoop in on these huge machines and walk around with all our gear,” explained Sgt. Michael Villanueva, Kilo Company squad leader. “Things became heated between one of the Marines and a man whose house we needed to search. Afterwards, though, when everything had calmed down, the Marine and the Afghan man shook hands. I think seeing that, everyone understands we’re not here to disrupt anyone’s way of life or hurt anyone who isn’t out to hurt other people. Maybe an Afghan child seeing that will get the right idea about who we are and why we’re here instead of believing whatever stories they are told about us.”

The Marines distributed humanitarian assistance supplies to the people of the vil-

lages after they had finished their search, and set in for a cold, wet night on the mountainside. Numerous indicators, to include information from sympathetic villagers, gave warning to possible attacks against their position during the night.

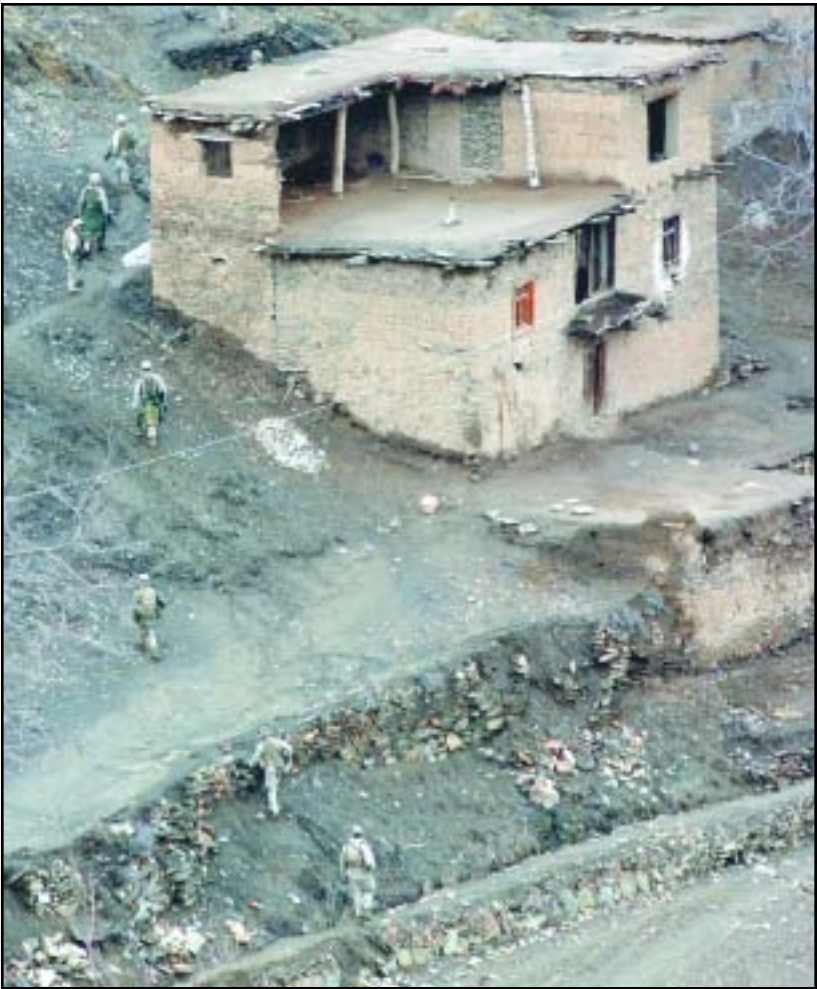
The Marines waited, but the enemy never appeared.

“At this point, they know what we bring to the table,” said Mallicoat, referring to the enemy’s hesitation to engage the Marines. “They know they are a defeated force and they cannot match us.”

“We accomplished a lot out there,” said Lance Cpl. Rob Gaye, a machinegunner with Kilo Company. “When the villagers realized we weren’t there to hurt them, they calmed down. If we cause any damage during our operations, we do what we can to fix or replace it. It feels good to be able to do the right things for the people.”

“It’s all about seeing the broader perspective,” said Villanueva. “Once they see that we’re focused on making their villages safer, they help us.”

America’s Battalion continues to dig deeper into territory coalition forces have yet to breach as the temperature change draws insurgents back into Eastern Afghanistan from their winter hideouts. The Marines will continue their security mission in the coming months as they anticipate an increase in activity from terrorists as the weather improves.



Marines of Kilo Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, patrol the outskirts of a village during Operation Mavericks, an operation that Marines conducted to capture suspected Anti-Coalition Forces in the vicinity of Methar Lam, Afghanistan March 20. “America’s Battalion” is conducting security and stabilization operations in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Cpl. James Yarboro

IDENTITY, From A-2

catalog your correspondence with the various companies. Lastly, once you have resolved the dispute with the respective companies, ask that them to provide you with a letter that confirms the resolution and discharges the fraudulent debts.

3. File a report with your local police or the police in the community where the identity theft took place.

Often companies require that you provide them with some evidence of the crime in order to discharge the fraudulent charges, so if you cannot obtain a copy of the police report, at least note the report number, the responding officer’s name and that officer’s department. You should also contact the state Attorney General to inquire if there are any applicable state requirements for reporting identity theft.

Contact the Honolulu Police Department and the Hawaii Attorney General’s office for information.

Honolulu Police Department
801 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813
Emergency: 911
General Information: 529-3111
www.honoluluupd.org

State of Hawaii
Department of the Attorney General
425 Queen Street
Honolulu, HI 96813
586-1239
www.state.hi.us/ag.

4. File a complaint with the FTC.

Reporting the theft of your identity to the FTC assists local law enforcement agencies to better track and ultimately capture these identity thieves. The FTC can also refer victims’ complaints to other government agencies and companies for further action, as well as investigate companies for violations of laws the agency enforces.

The FTC is the single best source of information on identity theft. All the statistical data and recommendations exposed in this article are drawn directly from either FTC publications, or the FTC identity theft Web site at www.consumer.gov/idtheft. Those without Internet access can contact the FTC directly at (877) 438-4338, Identity Theft Clearinghouse, FTC, 600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20580.

Ways to protect against identity theft

The best way to avoid becoming an identity theft victim is to exercise caution, prudence and diligence in protecting your sensitive personal information.

- Set up passwords on your credit card, bank, phone and computer accounts. Avoid using easily identifiable passwords like your SSN, birth date, or mother’s maiden name. Change the passwords at fluctuating intervals.

- Secure personal information inside your home in some type of safe or lock box, especially if you have roommates or employ outside contractors who have access to your home.
- Inquire of your employer

by raising the flag or comparable indicator. Check your mailbox for incoming correspondence, daily, and if you are going to be away from home for an extended period call the U.S. Postal Service at (877) 275-8777 to ask for a vacation hold.

- Keep your SSN card in a secure location and only reveal your number when absolutely necessary. Ask to use other types of identifiers if possible. If your state uses your SSN as your driver’s license number, ask to substitute another number.

- Only carry, on your person, the identification information and

financial cards that you absolutely need.

- Keep your purse or wallet in a safe place both at home and in your place of employment.

- Pay attention to your billing cycles. Not receiving a regularly scheduled monthly bill in the mail is a good indicator that your identity has been, or is about to be, stolen. Contact your creditors anytime your bills do not arrive on time.

- Be extraordinary thorough in safeguarding any computer that contains your sensitive personal information, whether that unit is in your

home or at work. Update your virus protection regularly. Avoid downloading any file from individuals you do not know. Use a firewall to limit the amount of access thieves have to your computer. Use a secure browser to guard the safety of your online transactions. Avoid keeping financial information on your computer unless absolutely necessary. Do not use any automatic log in features that would allow a thief to easily defeat the password security precautions. Delete all sensitive personal information from your computer before you dispose of it.